out in their Monthly Review of June, 1997) indicate that while the growth of net profit of these companies declined by 10.6 per cent in 1996-97, the gross profit margin and net profit margin grew by 16.6 per cent and 6.2 per cent respectively, in 1996-97. Compared to 1994-95 and 1995-96, the growth of gross profit margin and net profit margin of these companies were lower in 1996-97 but higher than those during the years between 1987-88 and 1993-94.

(b) the decline in profit of the companies in 1996-97 could be attributed to a combination of factors, such as high cost of interest and depreciation, provision of MAT compelling hitherto zero tax companies to pay a tax for the first time and slowdown in export growth.

(c) Government have taken various policy measures which are likely to stimulate industrial investment and production. The Union Budget 1997-98 announced reduction in corporate and other taxes which will have a favourable impact on the industrial sector. Further, ECB guidelines have been liberalised so that corporates have access to international capital market. The RBI, in its monetary and credit policy (April 1997) have signalled downward trend in interest rates which has resulted in decline in interest rates in financial markets.

Loans Advanced to Industrial units by Financial Institutions

742. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of industrial units which have been advanced more than Rs. 25 crores in the four zones of the country by financial institutions such as IDBI, ICICI, IFCI and others;

(b) their location and the amount advanced to each Industrial Unit;

. (c) the names of defaulters in the repayment of the loan and whether some of these defaulters have again been advanced some amount, if so, the amount advanced in each case and the reasons therefor;

(d) the criteria and the policy under which such loans were granted; and

(e) whether Government have taken any action against the defaulters; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent, available and permissible under the Rules.

Impact of Losses incurred by ITC on Investors

743. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Financial Institutions, which have substantial stake in ITC, have failed to protect the interest of common investors and Government's money;

(b) whether some Directors are responsible for this failure;

(c) the total loss incurred by ITC and the component of the loss on account of large arrears of excise duty payable by ITC;

(d) the persons responsible for the loss and what action has been taken by the financial institutions in this regard;

(e) the financial institutions which have failed to take any action and whether Government would order a CBI inquiry in the metter; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) ITC Limited is a private section company and the Board of Directors of the company or the shareholders in the general meetings of the company, as the case may be deal with issues relating to the company.

Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has, however, reported that the common investors in a company are inter-alia interested in regular dividend payment by the company and appreciation in share price. During the year 1997, the company has declared 35% dividend as against 25% during 1996 and the share price has appreciated over the last one year from Rs.

315.00 in July 1996 to Rs. 515.50 as on 23.7.1997.

(b) Does not arise

(c) and (d) ITC Ltd as such is a profit making company. As regards large arrears of excise, IDBI has reported that there was a differential excise duty demand of Rs. 681.54 crore and the company has deposited Rs. 350 crore and also has furnished a bond to the Excise Directorates. The company has gone on appeal against order of the Commissioner.

(e) and (f) The investigations under the Foreign Exchange Reglation Act, 1973 undertaken by the Enforcement Directorate against the company are continuing.

Army's Protest against Broadcasting of Serials Defaming Police and Military

744. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Army has protested against the Zee serial "Brigadier Balwant Bhawan" as the same is derogatory to war widows;

(b) whether there have been other cases also of defamation of police and military i.e. "Maachis" and "Adavilo Anna" - Brother in Forest as reported in 'The Pioneer', dated 25th January 1997;

(c) whether authorities in Hyderabad have objected to Pakistani TV. programmes on cable as anti-police and anti-military; and

(d) whether Government would consider having an army and/or police representative on Censor Board and various monitoring committees?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The Chief of Army Staff has filed a petition in the High Court of Delhi against ZEE TV for the serial "Brigadier Balwant Bhawan". The matter is sub-judice.

(b) The film ' Maachis' and 'Adavilo Anna' were examined and passed by the Central Board of Film Certification. It has come to the notice of this Ministry that a writ petition was filed by the Andhra Pradesh Police Officers' Association against the producers of the film 'Adavilo Anna' in the Andhra Pradesh High Court. However, the petition was dismissed by the Hon'ble Court.

(e) Government is not aware of any such objections.

(d) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

नौवीं योजना के अन्तर्गत नई मूल्य एवं सूचनात्मक सेवाओं की जरूरत पर विशेषज्ञों के पैनल द्वारा प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुत किया जाना

745. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुकला** : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने के कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या नौवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के अन्तर्गत प्रसारण क्षेत्र में नई मूल्य एवं सूचनात्मक सेवाओं तथा इंटरनेट सेवाओं की जरूरतों का मूल्यांकन करने के लिए गठित किए गए विशेषज्ञों के पैनल ने अपना प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुत कर दिया हैं,

(ख) क्या उक्त योजनावधि में राज्यों में कार्यक्रम निर्माण संबंधी नए स्टूडियों और उच्च शक्ति वाले ट्रांसमीटर स्थापित करने पर विशेष बल दिया गया हैं,

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या हैं,

(घ) क्या गुजरात के जामनगर शहर में एक पूर्णकालिक कार्यक्रम निर्माण स्टूडियों स्थापित करने का कोई प्रस्ताव विचारधीन हैं, और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो अनुमानित लागत के अनुसार उक्त परियोजना के कब तक पूरा हो जाने की संभावना हैं ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री एस. जयपाल रेड्डी) : (क) इस मंत्रालय द्वारा विशेषज्ञों का ऐसा कोई पैनल गठित नहीं किया गया था।

(ख) और (ग) हालांकि वर्तमान में 25 स्टूडियों और भिन्न-भिन्न शक्तियों के 247 टी.वी. ट्रांसमीटर विभिन्न राज्यों में कार्यान्वयनाधीन हैं तथापि अतिरिक्त 7 स्टूडियों और 107 ट्रांसमीटरों के कार्यान्वयन को दूरदर्शन की नौंवी योजना प्रास्तवों के भाग के रूप में शुरू किए जाने का प्रस्ताव हैं बशर्ते योजना आयोग द्वारा मंजूरी दे दी जाए और संसाधन एवं अपेक्षित आधारभूत सुविधा उपलब्धहो।

(घ) जी, नहीं।

(ङ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।